Member of the International Federation of Infertility Patient Associations

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September 2, 1999

Representative Charlie Norwood U.S. House of Representatives 1707 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 via fax: (202) 225-0279

Dear Representative Norwood:

I am writing to thank you for cosponsoring the Bipartisan Consensus Managed Care Improvement Act of 1999 (H.R. 2723). This important legislation provides the protection that patients need in today's healthcare system.

RESOLVE, the National Infertility Association represents the needs of women and men who experience infertility. These couples are often frustrated when they seek out treatment and find that they are denied insurance coverage or that they must overcome other obstacles in order to obtain any treatment. The patient protections that are included in H.R. 2723 will help this population to more easily navigate the healthcare system and to understand their rights. For example, allowing access to appropriate specialists who are outside of the plan's network can assist many couples who cannot find the needed care within their networks. Also, allowing for an independent external review when care is denied will be very helpful to those who struggle to obtain coverage for treatment.

RESOLVE is working in coalition with other organizations to gather support for H.R. 2723 and for the protections that the legislation provides. The bipartisan support for the bill gives us hope that it will pass the House of Representatives, and we are hopeful that these greatly needed protections will be signed into law. Thank you again for your efforts.

Sincerely,

Executive Director